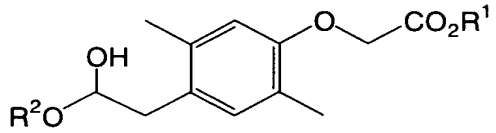
CLAIMS

1. A compound represented by general formula (I):

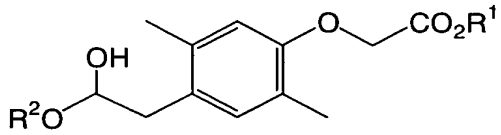


(I)

wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently a lower alkyl group.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group.

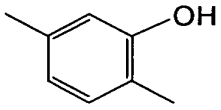
3. A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (I):



(I)

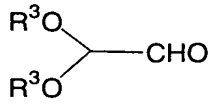
wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently a lower alkyl group, which comprises the steps of

(a) treating a compound represented by formula (II):



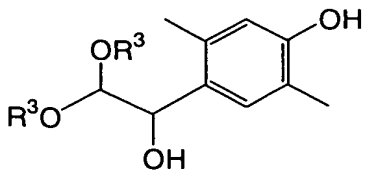
(II)

with a compound represented by general formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^3 is a lower alkyl group, to form a compound represented by general formula (IV):



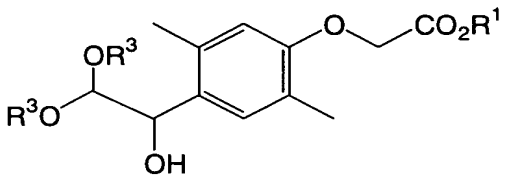
(IV)

wherein R^3 is as defined above;

(b) treating said compound represented by general formula (IV) with a compound represented by general formula (V):

$$ZCH_2CO_2R^1 \qquad (V)$$

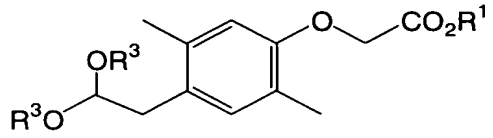
wherein Z is a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, and R^1 is as defined above, to form a compound represented by general formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein R^1 and R^3 are as defined above;

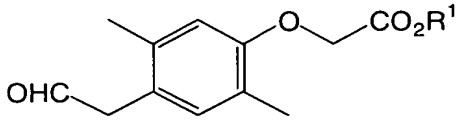
(c) reducing said compound represented by general formula (VI) to form a compound represented by general formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein R^1 and R^3 are as defined above;

(d) hydrolyzing said compound represented by general formula (VII) to form a compound represented by general formula (VIII):



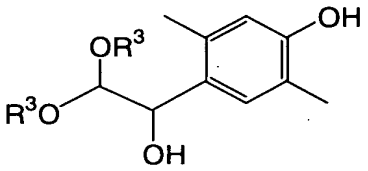
(VIII)

wherein R^1 is as defined above; and

(e) treating said compound represented by general formula (VIII) with R^2-OH wherein R^2 is as defined above.

4. The process according to claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group, and R^3 is a methyl group.

5. A compound represented by general formula (IV):

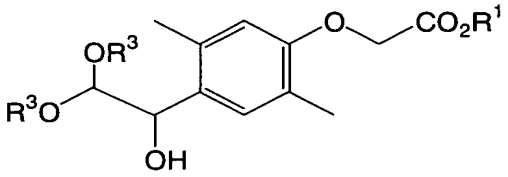


(IV)

wherein R^3 is a lower alkyl group.

6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R^3 is a methyl group.

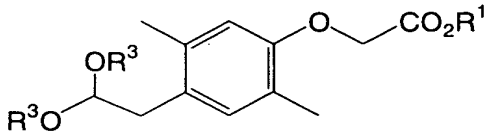
7. A compound represented by general formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a lower alkyl group.

8. A compound represented by general formula (VII):

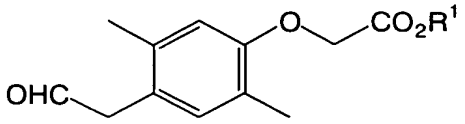


(VII)

wherein each of R^1 and R^3 is independently a lower alkyl group.

9. The compound according to claims 7 or 8, wherein R^1 is an ethyl group, and R^3 is a methyl group.

10. A compound represented by general formula (VIII):

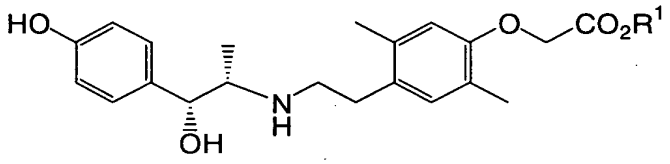


(VIII)

wherein R^1 is a lower alkyl group.

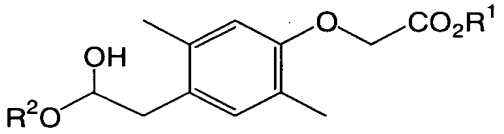
11. The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^1 is an ethyl group.

12. A process for preparing a compound represented by general formula (X):



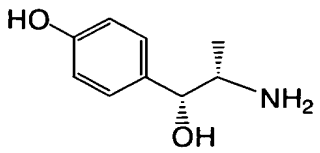
(X)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R^1 is a lower alkyl group, which comprises the step of treating a compound represented by general formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 is as defined above, and R^2 is a lower alkyl group, with a compound represented by formula (IX):



(IX)

in the presence of a reducing agent, and thereafter optionally forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound (X).

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein R^1 and R^2 are an ethyl group.